

HAMATEUR CHATTER

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs -- since 1917

September, 2000 Vol. 08 No. 09

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From the President's Desk

Dave DeFebo - WB9BWP



Dave DeFebo

August marked the start of E-Mail-only Chatter to people who have it. We have spoken of this for a number of months. Anyone who has email and does not want the Chatter via email must contact Brian White K9LCQ. This also applies for any people who have any of the email services which do not handle attachments. Brian is the keeper of the club database and prints mailing labels and maintains the E-Mail list. Besides E-Mail, the Chatter is available on the club web site (as well as back issues). All this is done to rein in the costs of publishing a newsletter. Beginning in 2001 we will be publishing newsletters every 6 weeks or 8 times per year. Doing so will lower newsletter costs

from about 30% MORE than TOTAL dues income to about 60% of dues income. If we do not do things like electronic distribution and a changed publication schedule we would bankrupt the club in about 5 years. Please keep that in mind while we work this out. The only other solution (well actually 2 others) would be to raise dues (or stop publishing a newsletter). I don't especially like either of those choices. Electronic newsletters also allow us to send them to many more non-members to help spread the word about MRAC (and maybe even get more members). By the way, thanks to Pancho and Brian for doing most of the work for this. If anyone really disagrees with what we are doing, well, there are elections for at least 3 directors every year. Maybe you should run!

I briefly mentioned last month the relocation of the repeater. Here's the latest. It has been removed from Sue

continued on page 2

Milwaukee Area Nets

DAY	TIME	MHZ	ACTIVITY
Daily	6-8 AM	14.290	Wisconsin/Florida Net (SSB)
Daily	6:30 PM	3.645	Wis. Slow Speed CW Traffic Net
MON-FRI	8:30 AM	3.965	After Breakfast Club (SSB)
MON	8:00 PM	146.445	Emergency Net
MON	9:00 PM	146.670	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)
MON	9:00 PM	50.160	6 Mtr. General Net
TUE	9:00 AM	50.160	6 Mtr. 2nd shifter's Net
TUE	8:00 PM	144.250	Badger Contesters (SSB)
TUE	8:00 PM	7.035	A.F.A.R. Net (CW)
WED	8:00 PM	28.365	10-10 International (Milwaukee Ch.) (SSB)

DAY	TIME	MHZ	ACTIVITY
THU	9:00 PM	50.160	6 Mtr. General Interest Net
THU	9:00 PM	146.910	Computer Net
FRI	8:45 PM	28.490	MRAC W9BH 10 meter Station Net (SSB)
FRI	9:15 PM	147.045*	W9BH 2 mtr. FM net after the 10 mtr. Net
SAT	9:00 PM	146.910	Saturday Nite Fun Net
SUN	8:30 AM	3.985	QCWA (Chptr. 55) (SSB)
SUN	10:00 AM	443.800*	FM-38 Link to 146.88 Baraboo SWAP Net
SUN	8:00 PM	28.365	10-10 International (Milwaukee Ch.) (SSB)
SUN	8:00 PM	146.910	Information Net
SUN	9:00 PM	146.910	Swap Net

The 2 meter FM frequencies are -600 khz offset FM repeaters. FM38 is +5 Mhz offset, tone 114.8. The 10 meter SSB frequencies are upper sideband (USB). If there are additions, changes, or corrections to this list, please contact: Pancho - KA9OFA at 344-4694 or call:

1-(262)-797-MRAC or (797-6722).

HAMATEUR CHATTER

MILWAUKEE CHATTER is the newsletter of **MRAC** (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club) which is a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct. MRAC Membership dues are \$15.00 per year and run on a calendar year starting with January 1.

Our Club/VEC Phone no. is (262) 797-MRAC.

Correspondence may be addressed to:

M. R. A. C.

Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club

P.O. Box 070695

Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695

Our meetings are normally at 7:30 PM.
the last Thursday of the month except for December.

Visit our website at: <http://www.qsl.net/mrac/>

Presidents Desk continued from page 1

(Ed) Willie's house. It is sort of at its' new home running in an experimental mode. What this means are the antennas are not yet in their final position and we are not generally running with the amplifier on. Why this is, is to get all possible kinks worked out before the repeater cabinet and antennas get to their final installation. When finished, the repeater hardware will not be physically accessible 24 hours a day, so we want to get everything working as we want before that. What that entails is some new cables and such as well as some general experimenting. Unfortunately, we can not ask for volunteers for much of the work due to the location. Notice I have been sort of vague about exactly where the repeater is. It is being housed by a private business (at no cost to us) with access limited to employees or people escorted by employees. MRAC wishes to thank them for allowing us to be there as they are not in the business of providing antenna space. There are about 15 hams employed there. The final home for the repeater will be in a freight elevator penthouse which has further limited access to building maintenance personnel (which include hams). This will not be a problem once we get everything squared away, where we plan to not have to touch the hardware more than an occasional checkup. The antenna location will be in the area of 27th and Capitol. The receive antenna will be about 150 feet above ground. The transmitter will be

outputting at least 100 watts. The final cost to the club will be some feedline and connectors (no more than a couple of hundred dollars). We will not be totally finished for a few more weeks, but the repeater will be on sporadically, so you may want to see if it's there. We will definitely let everyone know when it is totally ready to go (hey, maybe E-Mail, hum..).

I am talking too much this month, but I've got to get this out. Hopefully this part will not appear on the front page (the newsletter serves as promotional material to non-members besides as a newsletter to members). We have been talking about re-starting classes in theory and in taking over the on-air code practice. Granted there have not been a lot of details, but a lot hinges on a location for the theory (on-air code should be easy). We have not met with much success finding a decent classroom location (but as I finish this we may have a location). However, another problem has been getting volunteers. Asking for volunteers and even sending around a sign-in sheet at the last meeting has met with a rather dismal showing. During our last round of classes (1976-1996), many times I had to enlist non-club members to help teach the classes as most members sat back and said good job but did not volunteer themselves. The closest this club comes to having a specialty is in the area of education and testing. If we can't do that, what should we be doing. Do you want to get involved? We can always use a location to hold classes (2-3 hours at a time on

a weekly basis for about 6 weeks and we may need multiple locations in order to have different license classes) and we need people to teach the theory and we need people to do on-air (on 2 meters, first simplex and then maybe the repeater when it is finished) code practice. For a number of years Dick McNew just about single handedly did the code. He did such a good job it will take 4 or 5 people to step in (besides some time from Dick). Let's see some volunteers. Board members have enough to do already. How about it?

Speaking of Dick McNew and his code practice, thanks to Don Michalski W9IXG ARRLSM for Wisconsin, (who gets this newsletter and actually reads it) for putting mention of the certificate Dick received from the club in QST in the "Section News" on page 118 (October 2000 QST). Also in the September QST on page 20 are pictures of the Milwaukee/Waukesha ARES communications van (we contributed money to their cause last year).

I wanted to get into some topics much larger than the club, like about the future of amateur radio, but I had too much to write about so maybe next month. Thanks for reading and Please VOLUNTEER.

David B. WATERS

MRAC Board Meeting 8/28/Y2K

Previous meeting minutes were read and approved as written.

Treasurers report -- Total liquid assets \$2176.79

Next Board meeting at John Merkl's QTH.

Dave has asked the treasurer to have a complete accounting of all money spent this year so that we can formulate a budget for next year. The Board will start work on next years budget at the October meeting.

All board members are present except Matt.

VEC -- John is going to have new tapes made for the CW testing sessions. The tapes will be made according to the new NCVEC conference guide lines. He has also made two new written tests for the visually impaired, with large print. At this time he has enough volunteers to administer the test, but new volunteers will always be welcome.

Dave reports that E-Mail comments have been generally good on the new

electronic 'Chatter.

Brian informed us that we must reserve the room at WCTC A.S.A.P. We can always cancel the room if the class size does not pan out. The start date for classes will be October 14th. There will be six classes. The last class will be November 18th. The test will be given on November 25th.

The classes will be from 9 to 12 on Saturdays. Wednesdays will be the tentative backup date should we not be able to reserve a room for Saturdays. The charge for the class is yet to be determined.

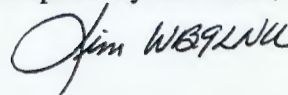
Along with classes we need a volunteer to start a code class over the air. Since code takes longer to learn than the written material, we need to start A.S.A.P. Written classes will be approximately 2 hours long each. The General class will be taught first. Info will be available on the MRAC Web site as plans progress.

The repeater is in the process of being moved to a new site. Jim has re-

moved the repeater from Ed Wille's house. Dave and Matt will set up the repeater at the new site.

The Christmas party -- Vern needs help with the details of the party, badges, etc.: The Board will establish a price to cover all the expenses based on input from Vern and his volunteers. We will have the party application in the 'Chatter. The volunteers also need to arrange for music or Christmas CD's at the party. Jim will bring the PA system.

Respectfully submitted,



Jim - WB9LNU,
Secretary



Jim - WB9LNU,
Secretary

MRAC Club Meeting 8/31/00

The meeting was called to order at 7:37.

Previous meeting minutes were read and approved as written.

Treasurers report -- Liquid assets \$2176.79 plus the Club CD.

Dave, our president reported that W9JK's tower is down. Jack says anybody can have it, if they come and get it. It has some damage but also some good sections. Also Travis Baird's XYL has some open racks she would like to get out of her basement.

The club repeater is off for awhile. Jim has removed it from Ed Wille's house. Dave and Matt are installing it at the new site. Listen for it!! The new site is near 27th and Capitol Dr.

The club is looking for teachers to start an over the air CW class A.S.A.P. Also we need volunteers to teach the written General Class. Brian, K9LCQ is arranging for a room at WCTC. See Chatter for details.

Vern, W9RYA is looking for volunteers to help with the small details for the club Christmas party. Contact Vern if you wish to help.

Dave -- The ARRL Central Division Director is up for re-election again. The incumbent has not responded to any of our requests to come to a club meeting. It's time to vote for some new blood.

Rick -- WB9GYT asked that more members present at the meet-

ing try to check in on the ten meter net. 28490 at 8:45 Friday nights.

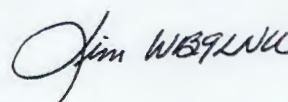
Business meeting adjourned at 8:10.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim - WB9LNU
Secretary

Program was on cross banding with VHF and UHF radios and how this helps extend your repeaters range as well as your low power HT.

Thanks to our kitchen crew for the soda and donuts.



Events (upcoming)

* indicates VE testing

Southeast Iowa HamFest *

SUN - OCT. 1, 2000

Muscatine Co. Fairgrounds
West Liberty, IA

29th Annual Davenport Radio Club HamFest/Computer show

SUN - NOV. 5, 2000

Iowa National Guard Hanger, Mt Joy Airport
Davenport, IA

T/I on 146.88/28

Alt 146.64/04 No PL

FORT WAYNE HAMFEST AND COMPUTER EXPO

SAT & SUN - NOV. 18 & 19, 2000

Allen Co. War Memorial Coliseum Expo Center
Fort Wayne, IN

GPS N 41 06.862 W 85 07.390

MRAC Christmas Dinner and Party

For Sale

Cushcraft R7 vertical 40-10 meter antenna.

Four tower sections similar to Rohn 25, top section, No base plate or hardware.

Call John - WB9PSE

(414) 259-9091

Visit our website at:

<http://www.qsl.net/mrac/>

Credits

Our thanks to our news contributors this month:

**KB9BWP WB9LNU KB9PRC
K9LCQ WB9PTC**

Thanks to **Rita Doneis** and **Kristi Potochnik** for their help in the proofreading dept. Our thanks goes to **John Merkl** and **Barbara Brewer** for making sure that the 'Chatter gets printed, stamped, and mailed.

We would also like to thank **Alfred Huwald**, and **Myron Hendrickson** for taking care of



the refreshments at our meetings.

Also our thanks goes to **Tom Scherlowsky** and **Jacquie Horwitz** for handling the Raffle at the meetings.

And a Big Thanks to all of our officers (past and present) who have tirelessly toiled for the good of the Club and Amateur Radio in general.

Many thanks!!

October



Richard L Adduci ... K9XU 10/01
Alfred H. Huwald ... KB9SLC ... 10/01
Flash Gordon N9IOI 10/02
Robert R. Dieh KB9VXN ... 10/05
Leroy W. Shuber KB9JBD ... 10/06
Fred H. Eltzsch W9QMD ... 10/14
Pancho Doneis KA9OFA ... 10/15
Thomas Gettelman W9IZO 10/21
Jim Tromblay, Sr ... WB9LNU .. 10/21
George J. Pfister ... W9IZQ 10/24
Vern R. Petersen W9PGL 10/26
Brian W. White K9LCQ 10/30

73 de Brian - K9LCQ

Brian

Happy Birthday !!

Christmas Party

Vern Teske - W9YRA has been working on plans for the Christmas party.

He has has reserved the Patio Club at 1421 E. Howard Ave. for Sunday - December 3. We will gather at 5:00 PM. and Dinner will be at 6:00 PM.



My Years in Amateur Radio

By Richard McNew - WB9PTC

In the past few years we have been listening to a lot of new radio operators.

I have always held a high respect for the Hams of the world and was happy where I myself did work so hard to join the world of HAM radio. Hams that I knew did everything to help me get a license. They gave me coffee and doughnuts when I went to study at their homes a mile from my house, where I spent many hours studying. I went to classes once a week at Art McGlothlin's - WA9AWJ Church on KK & Russell in Bayview, where about 30 students were grinding this radio stuff into their heads.

When one person would get his license, he or she became a teacher for those still studying and still trying to upgrade themselves. At that time you got your Novice ticket and one year to get the General license or lose the Novice. Then you had to wait two years to start all over again (the Novice license was nonrenewable).

Good Hams have always encouraged almost everyone they meet to join this great hobby. Most people, when asked if they want to become a Ham shy away if asked to become a ham, thinking they can't do it and make excuses to get out of the conversation. As time goes by, you find they got the bug like we did.

It is as much fun helping people become Hams as there is in being one as they learn all the funny names of

parts that make up radios and other electronic equipment, the phonetic alphabet, code and operating procedures of operating a radio.

Then when they get their license and for the first time on, the Adrenalin is pumping like crazy. Myself, when I made my first QSO on CW, I sent out a CQ signal and (secretly) wished no one would answer as I thought I would make a fool of myself and make a lot of mistakes. Why did I send out a CQ? All of a sudden someone is calling my station call, I think, "Oh, my God!!" Someone heard me, but I get his call sign. I expected to get Germany or somewhere far. The Ham was from West Allis, WI. I was glad to finish with this QSO so I can work some DX (Long Distance). The next QSO was Nashville, TN. He went easy on me as I told him I was a new ham. I was having fun!!

These days, there doesn't seem to be any classes after the Technician ticket. It takes a lot of hard work to become a Tech and there are a lot of smart Hams and some brilliant ones, too. There is a lot of new things to learn and experiment within the world above 6 meters. Years ago we built a lot of our (own) equipment. The way things are today, the stuff is so reasonable to buy and built better, it doesn't pay to spend the time on most projects. This kind of took something away from Ham radio. If it fails to operate, send it to the repair shop or buy another one. Most

Hams own 3 or 4 radios and by golly, we have fun. I believe there is no other group that socializes as we Hams do. I go to at least eight meetings or lunches a month, not counting the Hamfests. I get to meet the greatest people in the world in this great hobby.

Before new Hams get their license, they listen to other Hams to find out the procedure. They assume what they hear is the correct way to operate. Because there are not too many classes on Ham radio, the new Ham has to do the best they can on their own. Sometimes he/she picks up bad habits and doesn't realize it. Bad operators are known as LIDS!!! or LID operators!!!

An example is this "WWWW9 for ID." Anytime you use your call, you are identifying.

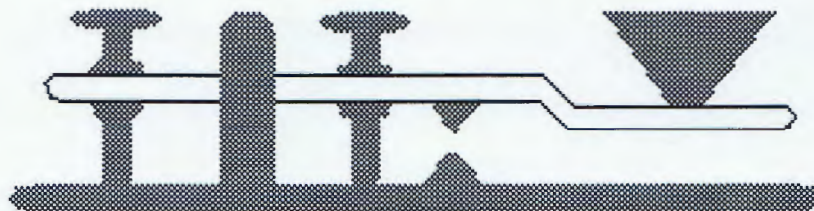
Another is UUU9 de WWWW9 over. UUU9 says hello. He should have said WWWW9 de UUU9, over. This way we show respect to each Ham by doing it right and professionally. If you are going to be a Ham, be a good one. I am probably as guilty as anyone, but I usually, I catch myself and try to correct my procedure.

ARRL has some good books and handouts on proper operating procedures and some of it is free.

We Amateurs are not professional, but we sure can try to be like one.

Remember, Amateur radio is the greatest hobby in the world, but family comes first.

Richard L. McNew - WB9PTC



MRAC

This Month's meeting:

Thu. - September 28, 2000 (Y2K)

7:30 PM

Program: **Video: Introduction to Amateur TV**
& our famous Raffle
(Don't forget your goodies)

Location: **Redemption Lutheran Church**
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
(Use the south entrance)

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Please! Don't call the Church
for information!!!

Board meeting: **Mon. - September 25, 2000**

Next meeting: **October 26, 2000**

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HamateurChatter

Deadline is
October 1, 2000

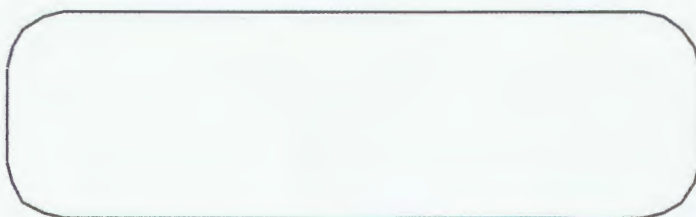
MRAC Getting Back Into (HAM) Classes

We have been talking about getting classes going again. We are working out details on 2 possible locations. If you are interested in helping out teaching classes (we will probably start with a General class) please contact Dave WB9BWP at wb9bwp@arrl.net. We would also like to step in and take the load off Dick McNew for his on-air code practice. If you would like to help in this area also contact Dave. We would like to get something going around October.

Note our **New Address**
MRAC

P.O. Box 070695
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695

Our Repeater is an open one.
Use it or lose it!!!
147.045+ MHz



M.R.A.C.
Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club
P.O. Box 070695
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs - since 1917
Phone (262) 797-MRAC -- Use our Club Repeater - W9RH 147.045 offset